

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

September 6, 2012

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Councilor Mark Tiffer (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Chris Jackson (W6)

Absent: Mayor Donald Kasprzak, Councilor Tim Carpenter (W1), Councilor Chris Case (W5)

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on August 30, 2012 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Tiffer; Seconded by Councilor Jackson
Roll call: Councilors Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending September 5, 2012 in the amount of \$ 254,404.53 are authorized and allowed and Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer
Roll call: Councilors Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of August 30 – September 5, 2012
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from August 28 – August 31, 2012
- Statements of cash receipts from the Library from August 15 – August 21, 2012

RESOLVED: That the reports as listed are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer
Roll call: Councilors Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None

5. **AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

RESOLVED: That the bills Audited by the Common Council in the amount of \$ 228,734.84 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Jackson
Roll call: Councilors Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

6. **PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL: None**

7. **OTHER ITEMS:**

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Paul Bardis to block Grace Avenue at the Cornelia and Ash Street entrances on Saturday, September 15, 2012 between the hours of 11 am and 6 pm to hold a block party on the south end of Grace Avenue (the residents of the entire street are also welcomed to participate).

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer
Discussion:

Motion to table By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau

Roll call: Councilors Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Tabled

Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the Adopt-A-Spot Program to grant Shaun O'Connell permission to plant three trees in the Westelcom Park (between Margaret and Durkee Streets).

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer
Discussion:

Councilor Tiffer said this is the second example of someone utilizing the Adopt-A-Spot Program. I'd just like to mention that Mike Kelly helped get this program started so it's always nice to see when people are utilizing this program

Roll call: Councilors Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

C. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a change order to Project HOME-16-2009 "Jock – 16 Elizabeth Street" in the amount of \$2,500.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves City Assessor Derek Rosenbaum to attend “Commercial & Industrial Appraisal” in Syracuse, NY from September 17 – 20, 2012 at a cost not to exceed \$1,306. This course will fulfill the basic certification requirement prior to the February 2013 deadline.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Environmental Manager Jonathan Ruff to attend “Water Environment Federation Technical Meeting 2012” in New Orleans, LA from September 30 – October 3, 2012 at a cost not to exceed \$1,705.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:

1. Request from the Community Development office permission to advertise for housing rehab bids for Project: Witt – 20 Montcalm Ave.
2. Request by the City Chamberlain to adjust the 2011 General Fund Budget by an increase of \$16,705.87 equally in estimated revenues and appropriations for unbudgeted Police Department academy costs recovered through police fee billings.
3. Request from City Assessor Derek Rosenbaum to attend “2012 NYSAA Annual Meeting and Seminar” in Lake Placid, NY from September 30 – October 3, 2012 at a cost not to exceed

\$409.50. This course will fulfill the basic certification requirement prior to the February 2013 deadline.

4. Request from City Assessor Derek Rosenbaum to attend "Data Collection Training" in Latham, NY from October 11 – 12, 2012 at a cost not to exceed \$362. This course will fulfill the basic certification requirement prior to the February 2013 deadline.

Added #5 for initial:

5. Request from Kevin Farrington City Engineer that Contract # 2012-06 "Sailors Beach Flood Damage Repair" be awarded to John W. Sheehan & Sons Inc. in the total amount of \$38,950.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Jackson said I received a call about Monday night about 9pm from a constituent. Apparently somebody's scamming or fishing for people's personal information. This constituent was told that the person that was calling was representing the entity that sells electricity to the City of Plattsburgh and they could reduce her electric bills. I told her not to provide any of her personal information and I double checked on Tuesday morning with Mr. Treacy of MLD and there is no such organization or company and you are getting the best electric rates that you can possibly get. So if you receive a call from somebody looking for personal information, hang up.

Bill Treacy Manager MLD said just to add to that we know about of at least 25 calls in the last 2 days. They've been targeting Senior Citizens because everybody that we've found out about have been between the ages of 65 and 94. When they challenge them on the phone they immediately hang up. Two people actually have given information. But apparently they're after their account information. Which I'm not sure what that gets them unless they think they can somehow get in to our system and access other personal information.

Councilor Calnon said I think there are a couple of reasons. That's one certainly. I know Bill and Richard both spoke with the folks who are protecting both our financial system and our general system so that they are aware that such an attack may occur. But, also having the utility bill and the name and address will sometimes get you an opportunity to apply for some things. So there may be some credit issues out there as well that's why one of the things we put on our press release yesterday afternoon is people who have been contacted should monitor their credit report very carefully to be sure that someone's not trying to steal their identity.

Councilor Jackson said there will be a MLD Board meeting after this meeting.

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Beth King 107 Montcalm Ave said it has been many years since I've been in front of the Council and the Mayor, who is not here tonight. But I respect all seated Councilors as well as those representing the Mayor.

What brings me here tonight is a condition of my property as well as an adjacent property and I truly believe that if it's happening to me it's got to be happening across the other Wards. I recognize that I only have 5 minutes to speak. I hope you will give me longer because sometimes to get everything out I am very nervous be that as it may. I have pictures here of my property that has been like this going on 2 years. I challenge any Councilor or Zoning Officer to look in to Article 7 270-39 Termination, Article 270-43 Damage to a non-conforming property under Fire, Flood, Act of God or man. I live in Ward 4 the old French quarter as it has been known to be. It's a non-conforming area. It is my understanding, and I have sat on the Zoning Board, that a property has one year to repair a building within the grandfathered rights or it loses its grandfather clause. This has been going on 2 years. It is now severely affecting my property as well as I may add the health and safety of others. Because if anybody knows the 4th Ward or the French quarter the properties lie close together and right on the sidewalk. There is no extension as it will. Unfortunately, I only have 2 pictures of what is now occurring. It is not properly covered, secured and it is in the health and safety of others that I come forth. And I will also argue that their building to fix the building we are going on 2 years they had 1 year. I am missing a picture where if you enter my property there is this big pole it is literally bowed holding the weight of that porch again a hazard. The front property anyone could fall in. I could literally, please excuse my terminology, throw bodies in there and they'd be buried and you wouldn't find them. I have come forth and actually my husband whose not here, Ricky King, spoke with the previous Zoning Officer, Rick Perry, who has retired. Joe McMahon I believe was on the premises; an engineer I believe was on the premises, Joe?

Building Inspector Joe McMahon stated yes.

Beth King 107 Montcalm Ave said they've had a beautiful summer but again they have exceeded their one year. The building is condemned it is not livable. Not only is it condemned and not livable and lost their grandfather clause it's a 3 unit apartment house that has one place to park a vehicle. Now in all fairness had they done the repairs in a timely manner that they should have they could have retained their prospects of this property and earned the proper income. But because of their lack to act upon for whatever reason that it may to them which I don't know quite frankly I don't care. I have a 9 year old granddaughter. We have been told by the City of Plattsburgh do not egress my property. I pay city taxes. I think that is very unfair to myself.

Councilor Rabideau asked what is the address of the property you are talking about. I just want to go look at it.

Beth King 107 Montcalm Ave said 103,105 Montcalm Ave and 2 Maple Street it is a corner lot apartment house the corner of Maple and Montcalm. I challenge and please I ask you to come. I'm asking for help on this matter and again I do believe it has exceeded its grandfather rights according to the zoning laws. Again, I have sat on the Board. Thank you very much for your time.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer

Roll call: Councilors Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:45pm